

2. Species of method and apparatus described at paragraph 007 to 010 and 012 (see fig. 7 as an example with fig. 1-5).

The Examiner has indicated that currently, claims 1, 6, 12 and 20 appear to be generic.

As presently understood, it appears that the Examiner is requiring the Applicant to elect from species directed, respectively, to Figure 6 and Figure 7. If this understanding is incorrect, Applicant respectfully requests suitable clarification from the Examiner. Applicant notes with respect to the foregoing that Applicant has made a number of unsuccessful attempts to contact the Examiner by phone so as to obtain clarification as to the nature of the election requirement stated in the Office Action.

In response to the Election of Species Requirement set forth in the Office Action, Applicant hereby elects Species 1., containing figures 1-6, without traverse. Claims 1-17, 19, 20, 23 - 26 are believed to be readable on the elected species.

Applicant notes that while the election set forth herein is made without traverse, the mere fact that no traverse is made does not constitute, and should not be construed as, an assessment or judgment by the Applicant as to the merits, if any, of: the characterization of the claims and species advanced by the Examiner in the election of species requirement set forth in the Office Action; or, any other assertions, allegations, statements or characterizations made by the Examiner in that election of species requirement.

Applicant's election herein is made without prejudice. As noted by the Examiner, upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species that are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141.

II. Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification as using reference numeral "48" to refer to two different components. Responsive to the objection, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendment to the specification set forth below and Applicant submits that in view of such amendment, the objection should be withdrawn:

[0032] Efficiently performing the burn-in and life testing occurs through use of burn-in rack 14 and detector assembly 16. The burn-in rack 14, as shown in Figure 2, includes rack base 40 that

supports one or more diode supports 42 and a circuit board 44. Rack base 40 includes a handle [[48]] that aids with positioning burn-in rack 14 within support structure 12 (Figure 1). Various configurations of handle [[48]] and/or rack base 40 can be used to enable a user to position burn-in rack 14. For instance, rack base 40 can include an integral or removable handle or other structure that a user grasps to position burn-in rack 14.

III. Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings "...because reference character '58' has been used to designate both fastener and holder in fig. 3. Reference character '58' near diode '34' should read --46—in fig. 3." Responsive to this objection, Applicant has submitted replacement drawings as set forth below, and Applicant submits that in view of such replacement drawings, the objection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Specifically, the attached Replacement Sheet 3 of drawings includes changes to Figure 3.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet 3; and

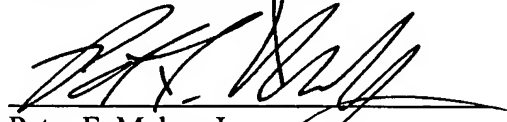
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes to Figure 3 of Sheet 3

Conclusion

An action on the merits of claims 1-17, 19, 20, 23-26 and a Notice of Allowance thereof are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner wishes to discuss any of the matters contemplated hereby, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone conversation with the undersigned.

Dated this 17th day of January, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. F. Malen, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

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Title: METHODS, SYSTEMS, AND DEVICES FOR BURN-IN
TESTING OF OPTICAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Inventors: Chen, et al.
Docket No.: 15436.247.5.1

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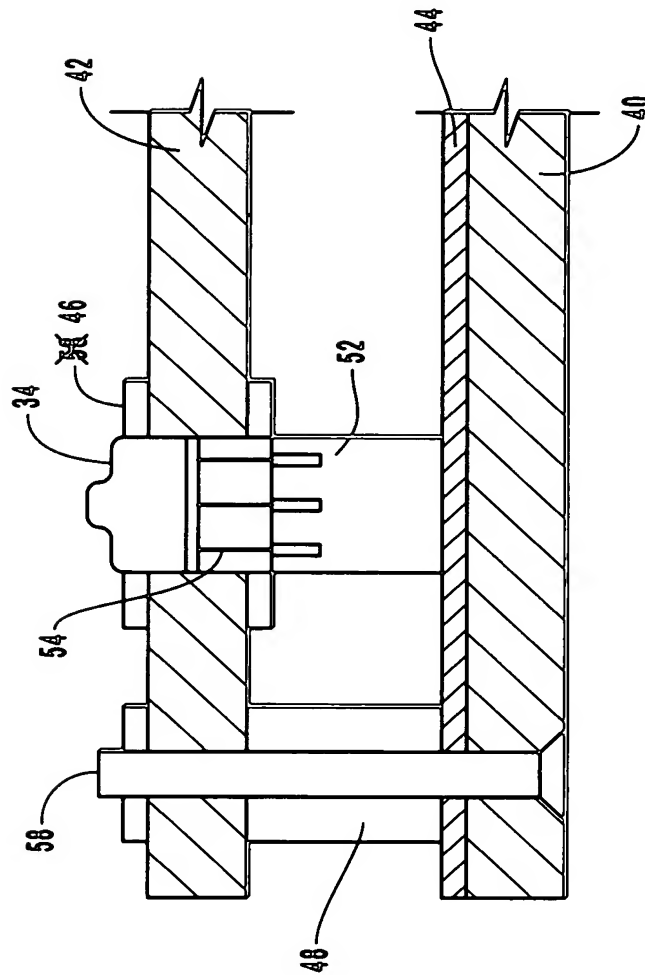


FIG. 3